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125. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for displaying data items managed with given linkages thereamong, comprising:

a first displaying means for displaying data items included within a similar level of linkage position simultaneously in a substantially same size; and

a second displaying means for displaying first data items, and second data items linked to said first data items, which are not included within the similar level of linkage position, mutually distinguishable in different sizes determined according to a distance of a linkage between the first and second data items,

wherein the data items represent time-series data accumulated time-sequentially, and displayed so that the distance of a linkage between the displayed first and second data items corresponds to an interval from an accumulated time of the first data items to an accumulated time of the second data items.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-35, 110-116, 125, 126 and 128 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 35, 110, 115 and 125 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent Claims 5, 21, 22, 35, 112 and 115. Claims 3 and 127 have been cancelled without

prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The title has again been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 5, 21, 22, 35, 110, 112, 115 and 125 are independent.

Claims 35 and 115 have been amended to make informal changes not affecting the scope or patentability of those claims.

Claims 1, 3, 5-35, 110-116 and 125-128 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from U.S. Patent 5,555,354 (Strasnich et al.).

First, cancellation of Claims 3 and 127 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a linked data display method for displaying data items managed with given linkages thereamong, in which a there is a step of displaying data items included within a similar level of linkage position simultaneously in a substantially same size. There is also a step of displaying first data items, and second data items linked to the first data items, which are not included within the similar level of linkage position, mutually distinguishably in different sizes determined according to a distance of a linkage between the first and second data, the data items representing time-series data accumulated time-sequentially, and displayed so that the distance of a linkage between the displayed first and second data items corresponds to an interval from an accumulated

time of the first data items to an accumulated time of the second data items.

Independent Claims 110 and 125 are corresponding computer program product and apparatus claims, respectively.

Claims 1 and 110 have been amended to recite the feature of cancelled Claim 3, and Claim 125 has been amended to recite the feature of cancelled Claim 127.

The Office Action, at page 3, states that col. 5, lines 10-15 and col. 7, lines 62-64 of Strasnich teaches a feature which allows users to observe changes over time, and teaches connectors representing time periods between generations. As understood by Applicants, however, Strasnich teaches a hierarchical linkage between data items, and not the linkage of date-accumulated time as recited in amended Claims 1, 110 and 125, in which "the distance of a linkage between the displayed first and second data items corresponds to an interval from an accumulated time of the first data items to an accumulated time of the second data items." In other words, Strasnich places no value on the length of the connection between the hierarchically connected data items, while in the aspects of Applicants' invention recited in amended Claims 1, 110 and 125, the linkage distance is used to represent a temporal relationship between the connected data items.

Also, the observation of quarterly sales data over time set forth in Strasnich is accomplished by comparing multiple windows. Strasnich does not teach or suggest another feature of amended Claims 1, 110 and 125, that a time

interval may be recognized by the size of the displayed date items or the distance between the displayed data items.

Amended Claims 1, 110 and 125 are therefore believed patentable over Strasnick, and the withdrawal of the rejection of those claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 is directed to a time-series data display method for displaying accumulated time-series data items, in which first data items associated with a desired time are displayed. Second data items associated with a time contiguous to the desired time are displayed so that a temporal direction between the desired time and the contiguous time is distinguishable.

Independent Claims 22 and 112 are corresponding information processing system and computer program product claims, respectively.

One feature of Claims 5, 22 and 112 is that first data items are displayed at a desired time, and the second data items contiguously, such that a temporal direction between the desired time and the contiguous time can be distinguished.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 110 and 125, Strasnick does not teach or suggest that a temporal direction between the desired time and the contiguous time can be represented by a display of data items.

Therefore, Claims 5, 22 and 112 are believed patentable over Strasnick, and the withdrawal of the rejection of those claims is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 21 is directed to a time-series data display method for displaying accumulated time-series data items, in which data accumulated in one-to-one correspondence to times of a schedule table is prepared. The schedule tables are displayed as data items associated with a desired time of the schedule table responsive to designation of the desired time on the schedule table.

Independent Claims 35 and 115 are corresponding information processing system and computer program product claims, respectively.

The July 10, 1997 Office Action, incorporated by reference in the current Office Action, at page 6, states that col. 22 of Strasnich teaches correspondence to a schedule table. As understood by Applicants, Strasnick merely discloses sample template structures, and not, as recited in Claims 21, 35 and 115, "displaying data items associated with a desired time of said schedule table" such that the display is done "responsively to designation of the desired time on the schedule table." Strasnick's template structures do not teach or suggest that these templates should be used to display data items relating a desired time once that time has been designated. In fact, Strasnick, at col. 22, lines 2-6, states that the templates should be used to "transform large volumes of tabular data into a visual presentation of information." Strasnick's suggestion is non-specific, and does not teach or suggest the same level of detail, i.e., temporal selection, as is recited by Applicants.

Therefore, Claims 21, 35 and 115 are believed patentable over Strasnick, and the withdrawal of the rejection of those claims is respectfully requested.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims under examination in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our new address given below.

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